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# Occurrence of birds in New South Wales, Australia

by
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**Abstract:** Birds of five different localities representing diverse habitat types such as mountain rain forests, dry sclerophyll forests, semideserts and extensive agricultural areas were observed and identified in New-South Wales, Australia in January 1998. The list of observed species is given in tables according to taxonomic order.
**Key words:** Australia, NSW, birds, Aves, faunistics

## Introduction

In January 1998 two researchers (A. B. and T. I. F.) of the Hungarian Natural History Museum were invited by George Hangay for a one month ornithological trip. During the trip several characteristic habitat types of New South Wales were visited, and occurrence of bird species were recorded at the locations. The range of natural habitats included from semideserts to mountain rain forests a whole series of natural landscapes, additionally agricultural and urban areas were also studied. For the identification of birds several field guides were used (Slater *et al.* 1986, Simpson & Day 1996). Birds were identified with 10 x 50 binoculars and a Leica spotting scope. On several occasions secretive passerine birds were lured to the observers from dense undergrowth by imitating their sounds by whistling or with a small tool (Audubon Bird Call) emitting high frequency squeaking noise. As these areas were visited at the middle of the Australian summer, the native bird species were often incubating or already rearing their young, and some Palearctic migrant species from the Northern hemisphere were also present, "wintering" in Australia.

## Results and discussion

Hereafter we give a short description of the most significant areas visited, and a list of observed bird species with common names, scientific names and authors' names. The list of birds follows the taxonomic order published in Schode & Tidemann (1997). The list of locations is compiled in chronological sequence.

Olinda Station and surrounding areas, 4–6th January, 1998.

This property, which is primarily a cattle station, is situated West from the Great Dividing Range, near the Wollemi National Park and Coricudgy State Forest, at the foothills of Mount Coricudgy. The area is composed of a mosaic of agricultural landscapes and forests. The pastures of cattle properties are interspersed with small rocky outcrops, covered with small remaining patches of dry sclerophyll forests. Outside the boundaries of the grazing paddocks at lower elevations larger stands of dry sclerophylous forests can be found. As the elevation

gets higher these are replaced with wet sclerophyll forests, and from above around 1000 m asl. (for example on the Mount Coricudgy) mountain rainforests cover the ridges and tops of the mountains (Table 1).

Carrey State Forest and surrounding areas, 10-13th January, 1998.

This mountain region is a protected area, adjacent to Oxley Wild Riwers and Warrikimbe National Parks. The different parts represent forest stands subjected to selective logging at different times, and hence were left to regenerate for various periods of time. Some of the ground dwelling insect fauna and the mammal communities of the different stands are monitored by regular trapping. At lower elevations wet sclerophyll forests, at higher elevations mountain rainforests cover the hills. Some man-made open pastures are also present in the area, outside the boundaries of the protected part. Cattle grazing in these areas is still practised (Table 1).

Table 1. The occurence of bird species in the Olinda Station (I.) and the Carrey State Forest (II.)

| Species | | | I. | II. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| White-faced Heron | *Ardea novaehollandiae* | Latham, 1790 | + | |
| Black-shouldered Kite | *Elanus notatus* | Gould, 1838 | + | |
| Brown Goshawk | *Accipiter fasciatus* | (Vigors & Horfield, 1827) | + | |
| Collared Sparrowhawk | *Accipiter cirrhocephalus* | (Vieillot, 1817) | + | + |
| White-bellied Sea-Eagle | *Haliaeetus leucogaster* | (Gmelin, 1788) | | + |
| Little Eagle | *Hieraaetus morphnoides* | (Gould, 1841) | + | |
| Wedge-tailed Eagle | *Aquila audax* | (Latham, 1801) | + | + |
| Brown Falcon | *Falco berigora* | Vigors & Horsfield, 1827 | + | |
| Australian Kestrel | *Falco cenchroides* | Vigors & Horsfield, 1827 | + | + |
| Australian Hobby | *Falco longipennis* | Swainson, 1837 | + | |
| Black Falcon | *Falco subniger* | Gray, 1843 | + | |
| Maned Duck | *Chenonetta jubata* | (Latham, 1801) | + | |
| Pacific Black Duck | *Anas superciliosa* | Gmelin, 1789 | + | |
| Australian Brush-turkey | *Alectura lathami* | J. E. Gray, 1831 | | + |
| Stubble Quail | *Coturnix australis* | (Latham, 1801) | | + |
| Masked Lapwing | *Vanellus miles* | (Boddaert, 1783) | + | |
| Common Bronzewing | *Phaps chalcoptera* | (Latham, 1790) | + | |
| Brush Bronzewing | *Phaps elegans* | (Temminck, 1810) | + | |
| Brown Cuckoo-Dove | *Macropygia amboinensis* | (Temminck, 1821) | | + |
| Wonga Pigeon | *Leucosarcia melanoleuca* | (Latham, 1801) | | + |
| Topknot Pigeon | *Lopholaimus antarcticus* | (Shaw, 1793) | | + |
| Gang-gang Cockatoo | *Callocephalon fimbriatum* | (Grant, 1803) | + | |
| Sulphur-crested Cockatoo | *Cacatua galerita* | (Latham, 1790) | + | + |
| Rainbow Lorikeet | *Trichoglossus haematodus* | (Linnaeus, 1771) | | + |
| Scaly-breasted Lorikeet | *Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus* | (Kuhl, 1820) | + | |
| Australian King Parrot | *Alisterus scapularis* | (Lichtenstein, 1816) | + | + |
| Crimson Rosella | *Platycercus elegans* | (Gmelin, 1788) | + | + |
| White-cheeked Rosella | *Platycercus eximius* | (Shaw, 1792) | + | + |
| Pallid Cuckoo | *Cuculus pallidus* | (Latham, 1801) | + | |

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| Channel-billed Cuckoo | *Scythrops novaehollandiae* | Latham, 1790 | + | |
| Southern Boobook | *Ninox boobook* | (Latham, 1801) | | + |
| Tawny Frogmouth | *Podargus strigoides* | (Latham, 1801) | | + |
| Laughing Kookaburra | *Dacelo novaeguineae* | (Hermann, 1783) | + | + |
| Sacred Kingfisher | *Halcyon sancta* | (Vigors & Horsfield, 1827) | + | + |
| Dollarbird | *Eurystomus orientalis* | (Linnaeus, 1766) | + | |
| Welcome Swallow | *Hirundo neoxena* | Gould, 1842 | | + |
| Fairy Martin | *Cecropis ariel* | (Gould, 1843) | | + |
| Richard's Pipit | *Anthus novaeseelandiae* | (Gmelin, 1789) | + | + |
| Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike | *Coracina novaehollandiae* | (Gmelin, 1789) | + | + |
| Rose Robin | *Petroica rosea* | Gould, 1839 | | + |
| Flame Robin | *Petroica phoenicea* | Gould, 1837 | + | + |
| Scarlet Robin | *Petroica multicolor* | (Gmelin, 1789) | + | |
| Eastern Yellow Robin | *Eopsaltria australis* | (Shaw, 1790) | + | + |
| Jackey Winter | *Microeca leucophaea* | (Latham, 1801) | + | |
| Crested Shrike-tit | *Falcunculus frontatus* | (Latham, 1801) | + | + |
| Rufous Whistler | *Pachycephala rufiventris* | (Latham, 1801) | + | |
| Golden Whistler | *Pachycephala pectoralis* | (Latham, 1801) | + | + |
| Grey Shrike-thrush | *Colluricincla harmonica* | (Latham, 1801) | + | |
| Spectacled Monarch | *Monarcha trivirgatus* | (Temminck,1826) | | + |
| Black-faced Monarch | *Monarcha melanopsis* | (Vieillot, 1818) | + | + |
| Leaden Flycatcher | *Myiagra rubecula* | (Latham, 1801) | + | |
| Rufous Fantail | *Rhipidura rufifrons* | (Latham, 1801) | + | + |
| Grey Fantail | *Rhipidura fuliginosa* | (Sparrman, 1787) | + | |
| Willie Wagtail | *Rhipidura leucophrys* | (Latham, 1801) | + | + |
| Eastern Whipbird | *Psophodes olivaceus* | (Latham, 1801) | + | + |
| Suberb Fairy-wren | *Malurus cyaneus* | (Ellis, 1782) | + | + |
| Variegated Fairy-wren | *Malurus lamberti* | Vigors & Horsfield, 1827 | + | |
| Large-billed Scrubwren | *Sericornis magnirostris* | (Gould, 1838) | | + |
| Yellow-throated Scrubwren | *Sericornis citreogularis* | Gould, 1838 | + | + |
| White-browed Scrubwren | *Sericornis frontalis* | (Vigors & Horsfield, 1827) | + | + |
| Weebill | *Smicrornis brevirostris* | (Gould, 1838) | + | |
| Brown Gerygone | *Gerygone mooki* | Mathews, 1912) | | + |
| Western Gerygone | *Gerygone fusca* | (Gould, 1838) | + | |
| Brown Thornbill | *Acanthiza pusilla* | (Shaw,1790) | + | |
| Buff-rumped Thornbill | *Acanthiza reguloides* | Vigors & Horsfield, 1827 | + | |
| Striated Thornbill | *Acanthiza lineata* | Gould, 1838 | + | |
| White-throated Treecreeper | *Cormobates leucophaea* | (Latham, 1801) | + | + |
| Noisy Friarbird | *Philemon corniculates* | (Latham, 1790) | | + |
| Red Wattlebird | *Anthochaera carunculata* | (Shaw, 1790) | + | |
| Bell Miner | *Manorina melanophrys* | (Latham, 1801) | | + |
| Lewin's Honeyeater | *Meliphaga lewinii* | (Swainson, 1837) | + | + |
| Yellow-faced Honeyeater | *Lichenostomus chrysops* | (Latham, 1801) | + | |
| Yellow-tufted Honeyeater | *Lichenostomus melanops* | (Latham, 1801) | + | |
| White-eared Honeyeater | *Lichenostomus leucotis* | (Latham, 1801) | + | |
| White-naped Honeyeater | *Melithreptus lunatus* | (Vieillot, 1802) | + | |
| Black-chinned Honeyeater | *Melithreptus gularis* | (Gould, 1837) | | + |

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| New Holland Honeyeater | *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae* | (Latham, 1790) | + | |
| Eastern Spinebill | *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris* | (Latham, 1801) | + | + |
| Spotted Pardalote | *Pardalotus punctatus* | (Shaw, 1792) | + | |
| Silvereye | *Zosterops lateralis* | (Latham, 1801) | + | |
| Red-browed Finch | *Neochmia temporalis* | (Latham, 1801) | + | + |
| Satin Bowerbird | *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus* | (Vieillot, 1816) | | + |
| Green Catbird | *Ailuroedus crassirostris* | (Paykull, 1815) | | + |
| Common Starling | *Sturnus vulgaris* | Linnaeus, 1758 | + | |
| Grey Butcherbird | *Cracticus torquatus* | (Latham, 1801) | | + |
| White-winged Chough | *Corcorax melanorhamphus* | (Vieillot, 1817) | + | |
| Australian Magpie-lark | *Grallina cyanoleuca* | (Latham, 1801) | + | + |
| Australian Magpie | *Gymnorhina tibicen* | (Latham, 1801) | + | |
| Pied Currawong | *Strepera graculina* | (Shaw, 1790) | + | + |
| Little Woodswallow | *Artamus minor* | (Vieillot, 1817) | | + |
| Dusky Woodswallow | *Artamus cyanopterus* | (Latham, 1801) | | + |
| Australian Raven | *Corvus coronoides* | Vigors & Horsfield, 1827 | + | |
| Forest Raven | *Corvus tasmanicus* | Mathews, 1912 | | + |

Warriewood Escarpment, Sydney, 8th January, 1998.

This ca. 15 hectare forest is located in a quiet suburban area of Sydney 3-4 km from the seaside. The rocky rugged surface is covered by dry sclerophyll forest, and the signs of a recent bush fire were well visible. The area is surrounded by built-up districts, and the protection of the forests was proposed by a local conservation group. As the area is quite limited we recorded the presence of birds in the edge and forest interior (Table 2). Although the number of species were similar in the edge and the interior, higher number of individuals were recorded in the edge.

Table 2. Presence of birds in the edge and forest interior of Warriewood Escarpment. Species signed with asterix were flying over the area.

| Bird species | Forest edge | Forest interior |
|---|---|---|
| *Little Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos* (Vieillot, 1817) | | + |
| Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis* Swainson, 1837 | | + |
| Spotted Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia chinensis* (Scopoli, 1786) | + | |
| White-cheeked Rosella *Platycercus eximius* (Shaw, 1792) | | + |
| *White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus* (Latham, 1801) | + | + |
| Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis* (Linnaeus, 1766) | | + |
| Brush Wattlebird *Anthochaera chrysoptera* (Latham, 1801) | + | + |
| Noisy Miner *Manorina melanocephala* (Latham, 1801) | + | + |
| Common Mynah *Acridotheres tristis* (Linnaeus, 1766) | + | |
| Pied Currawong *Strepera graculina* (Shaw, 1790) | | + |
| Australian Raven *Corvus coronoides* Vigors & Horsfield, 1827 | + | |

Longstowe Station, 14–17th January, 1998.

The farm is located in an agricultural landscape 120 km north-west of Warren, in close approximation to the very extensive Macquaire Marshes. Small water holes, a river with swampy areas and small gallery forests, and salt bush covered drier areas intersperse the pastures. Sheep, cattle and emus are bred on the farms whilst commercial harvesting of free-range kangaroos is also widely practised right through the district. Some dry, open forest patches form savannah-like landscapes.

Recorded bird species:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Emu | *Dromaius novaehollandiae* | (Latham, 1790) |
| Pacific Heron | *Ardea pacifica* | Latham, 1801 |
| White-faced Heron | *Ardea novaehollandiae* | Latham, 1790 |
| Straw-necked Ibis | *Threskiornis spinicollis* | (Jameson, 1835) |
| Whistling Kite | *Haliastur sphenurus* | (Vieillot, 1818) |
| Little Eagle | *Hieraaetus morphnonoides* | (Gould, 1841) |
| Wedge-tailed Eagle | *Aquila audax* | (Latham, 1801) |
| Brown Falcon | *Falco berigora* | Vigors & Horsfield, 1827 |
| Australian Hobby | *Falco longipennis* | Swainson, 1837 |
| Australian Kestrel | *Falco cenchroides* | Vigors & Horsfield, 1827 |
| Australian Shelduck | *Tadorna tadornoides* | (Jardine & Selby, 1828) |
| Maned Duck | *Chenonetta jubata* | (Latham, 1801) |
| Banded Lapwing | *Vanellus tricolor* | (Vieillot, 1818) |
| Maked Lapwing | *Vanellus miles* | (Boddaert, 1783) |
| Crested Pigeon | *Geophaps lophotes* | (Temminck, 1822) |
| Peaceful Dove | *Geopelia placida* | Gould, 1844 |
| Galah | *Cacatua roseicapilla* | Vieillot, 1817 |
| Red-winged Parrot | *Aprosmictus erythropterus* | (Gmelin, 1788) |
| Ringneck | *Barnardius zonarius* | (Shaw, 1805) |
| Blue Bonnet | *Northiella haematogaster* | (Gould, 1838) |
| Red-rumped Parrot | *Psephotus haematonotus* | (Gould, 1838) |
| Bourke's Parrot | *Neophema bourkii* | (Gould, 1841) |
| Australian Owlet-nightjar | *Aegotheles cristatus* | (Shaw, 1790) |
| Laughing Kookaburra | *Dacelo novaeguineae* | (Hermann, 1783) |
| Sacred Kingfisher | *Halcyon sancta* | (Vigors & Horsfield, 1827) |
| Rainbow Bee-eater | *Merops ornatus* | Latham, 1801 |
| Welcome Swallow | *Hirundo neoxena* | Gould, 1842 |
| Tree Martin | *Cecropis nigricans* | Vieillot, 1817 |
| Richard's Pipit | *Anthus novaeseelandiae* | (Gmelin, 1789) |
| Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike | *Coracina novaehollandiae* | (Gmelin, 1789) |
| Jackey Winter | *Microeca leucophaea* | (Latham, 1801) |
| Willie Wagtail | *Rhipidura leucophrys* | (Latham, 1801) |
| Grey-crowned Babbler | *Pomatostomus temporalis* | (Vigors & Horsfield, 1827) |
| Rufous Songlark | *Cinclorhamphus mathewsi* | (Iredale, 1911) |
| Splendid Fairy-wren | *Malurus splendens* | (Quoy & Gaimard, 1830) |
| Variegated Fairy-wren | *Malurus lamberti* | Vigors & Horsfield, 1827 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Southern Whiteface | *Aphelocephala leucopsis* | (Gould, 1841) |
| Brown Treecreeper | *Climacteris picumnus* | Temminck, 1824 |
| Noisy Friarbird | *Philemon corniculatus* | (Latham,1790) |
| Little Friarbird | *Philemon citreogularis* | (Gould, 1837) |
| Yellow-throated Miner | *Manorina flavigula* | (Gould, 1840) |
| White-plumed Honeyeater | *Lichenostomus penicillatus* | (Gould, 1837) |
| Mistletoebird | *Dicaeum hirundinaceum* | (Shaw, 1792) |
| Spotted Bowerbird | *Chlamydera maculata* | (Gould, 1837) |
| Apostlebird | *Struthidea cinerea* | Gould, 1837 |
| Australian Magpie-lark | *Grallina cyanoleuca* | (Latham, 1801) |
| White-browed Wood-swallow | *Artamus superciliosus* | (Gould, 1837) |
| Black-faced Wood-swallow | *Artamus cinereus* | Vieillot 1817 |
| White-breasted Woodswallow | *Artamus leucorhynchus* | (Linnaeus, 1771) |
| Pied Butcherbird | *Cracticus nigrogularis* | (Gould, 1837) |
| Australian Magpie | *Gymnorhina tibicen* | (Latham, 1801) |
| Australian Raven | *Corvus coronoides* | Vigors & Horsfield, 1827 |
| Little Crow | *Corvus bennetti* | North, 1901 |

Willandra National Park. 17–19th January 1998.

This national park was established on a former Sheep Station. The main feature of the national park is the Willandra-river and the gallery forests along the meandering riverbed and its side-branches. The drier parts of the park are dominated by former pastures and saline ephemeral lakes and saline plains.

Recorded birds:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Emu | *Dromaius novaehollandiae* | (Latham, 1790) |
| Australasian Grebe | *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae* | (Stephens, 1826) |
| Pied Cormorant | *Phalacrocorax varius* | (Gmelin, 1789) |
| Darter | *Anhinga melanogaster* | Pennant, 1769 |
| Australian Pelican | *Pelecanus conspicillatus* | Temminck, 1824 |
| Pacific Heron | *Ardea pacifica* | Latham, 1801 |
| White-faced Heron | *Ardea novaehollandiae* | Latham, 1790 |
| Great Egret | *Casmerodius albus* | (Linnaeus, 1758) |
| Straw-necked Ibis | *Threskiornis spinicollis* | (Jameson, 1835) |
| Black Kite | *Milvus migrans* | (Boddaert, 1784) |
| Whistling Kite | *Haliastur sphenurus* | (Vieillot, 1818) |
| Wedge-tailed Eagle | *Aquila audax* | (Latham, 1801) |
| Australian Kestrel | *Falco cenchroides* | Vigors & Horsfield, 1827 |
| Australian Hobby | *Falco longipennis* | Swainson, 1837 |
| Black Swan | *Cygnus atratus* | (Latham, 1790) |
| Australian Shelduck | *Tadorna tadornoides* | (Jardine & Selby, 1828) |
| Grey Teal | *Anas gibberifrons* | Müller, 1842 |
| Pacific Black Duck | *Anas superciliosa* | Gmelin, 1789 |
| Black-tailed Native-hen | *Gallinula ventralis* | Gould, 1837 |
| Dusky Moorhen | *Gallinula tenebrosa* | Gould, 1846 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Eurasian Coot | *Fulica atra* | Linnaeus, 1758 |
| Australian Pratincole | *Stiltia isabella* | (Vieillot, 1816) |
| Banded Lapwing | *Vanellus tricolor* | (Vieillot, 1818) |
| Inland Dotterel | *Peltohyas australis* | (Gould, 1841) |
| Crested Pigeon | *Geophaps lophotes* | (Temminck, 1822) |
| Galah | *Cacatua roseicapilla* | Vieillot, 1817 |
| Ringneck | *Barnardius zonarius* | (Shaw, 1805) |
| Blue Bonnet | *Northiella haematogaster* | (Gould, 1838) |
| Laughing Kookaburra | *Dacelo novaeguineae* | (Hermann, 1783) |
| Sacred Kingfisher | *Halcyon sancta* | (Vigors & Horsfield, 1827) |
| Welcome Swallow | *Hirundo neoxena* | Gould, 1842 |
| Fairy Martin | *Cecropis ariel* | (Gould, 1843) |
| Richard's Pipit | *Anthus novaeseelandiae* | (Gmelin, 1789) |
| Red-capped Robin | *Petroica goodenovii* | Vigors & Horsfield, 1827 |
| Eastern Yellow Robin | *Eopsaltria australis* | (Shaw, 1790) |
| Rufous Whistler | *Pachycephala rufiventris* | (Latham, 1801) |
| Grey Shrike-thrush | *Colluricincla harmonica* | (Latham, 1801) |
| Willie Wagtail | *Rhipidura leucophrys* | (Latham, 1801) |
| Grey Fantail | *Rhipidura fuliginosa* | (Sparrman, 1787) |
| White-browed Babbler | *Pomatostomus superciliosus* | (Vigors & Horsfield, 1827) |
| Little Grassbird | *Megalurus gramineus* | (Gould, 1845) |
| Brown Songlark | *Cinclorhamphus cruralis* | Vigors & Horsfield, 1827 |
| Variegated Fairy-wren | *Malurus lamberti* | Vigors & Horsfield, 1827 |
| White-winged Fairy-wren | *Malurus leucopterus* | Dumont, 1824 |
| Western Gerygone | *Gerygone fusca* | (Gould, 1838) |
| Brown Thornbill | *Acanthiza pusilla* | (Shaw,1790) |
| Chestnut-rumped Thornbill | *Acanthiza uropygialis* | Gould, 1838 |
| Yellow-rumped Thornbill | *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa* | (Quoy & Gaimat, 1830) |
| Yellow Thornbill | *Acanthiza nana* | Vigors & Horsfield, 1827 |
| Southern Whiteface | *Aphelocephala leucopsis* | (Gould, 1841) |
| White-fronted Chat | *Ephthianura albifrons* | (Jardine & Selby, 1827) |
| Yellow-throated Miner | *Manorina flavigula* | (Gould, 1840) |
| Silvereye | *Zosterops lateralis* | (Latham, 1801) |
| Common Starling | *Sturnus vulgaris* | Linnaeus, 1758 |
| White-browed Wood-swallow | *Artamus superciliosus* | (Gould, 1837) |
| Australian Magpie-lark | *Grallina cyanoleuca* | (Latham, 1801) |
| Grey Butcherbird | *Cracticus torquatus* | (Latham, 1801) |
| Australian Magpie | *Gymnorhina tibicen* | (Latham, 1801) |
| Australian Raven | *Corvus coronoides* | Vigors & Horsfield, 1827 |

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